

between said system and said blade remains substantially constant.

REMARKS

Claim 24 has been added to the application. This claim covers a process for registering indicia and lines of termination in a moving sheet. The indicia are applied by a system adapted to apply indicia. Support for the subject matter of this claim may be found in the specification on page 4, lines 7-8, and lines 16-18. No new matter has been added.

RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS:

Double Patenting:

The Office Action rejects claims 9-23 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as unpatentable over claims 1 and 3-19 of U.S. Patent No. 5,802,974. Applicant submits herewith a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.32(c)

35 USC §102 and 35 USC §103 Rejections:

The Office Action has rejected claims 9-13 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Meschi (US 5,720,223).

Claims 14, 15, 16, and 17 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Meschi.

Claims 18, 21, and 22 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Meschi in view of Fokos (US 5,129,568)

Applicant respectfully traverses each of these rejections because Meschi (US 5,720,223) filed April 8, 1996 is not a valid prior art reference with respect to the application. Applicant claims priority to Serial No. 08/787,893, filed January 23, 1997, and to Serial No. 08/621,268 filed March 25, 1996, now abandoned. Meschi was filed after Applicant's priority date and may not be used as a prior art reference with respect to this application.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

In light of the above remarks, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections under 35 USC §§ 102, 103. Early and favorable action in the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

24. (New) A process for registering indicia and lines of termination in a moving sheet, said process comprising steps of:

- providing a generally planar sheet;
- transporting said sheet in a first direction at a first velocity;
- applying indicia to said sheet from a system adapted to apply indicia, movable in said first direction relative to said sheet, said system being movable at a second velocity;
- imparting lines of termination to said sheet from a blade movable in said first direction relative to said sheet, said blade being movable at a third velocity, said lines of termination being spaced apart from said indicia in a spacing; and
- varying one of said second or third velocities independent of the other to maintain said spacing within a desired range, wherein a path length of said moving sheet between said system and said blade remains substantially constant.